## **Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

## **Listing of Claims:**

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- 1 1. (currently amended) A method for classifying blocks of data comprising the steps of:
- capturing a block of non-textual data using a recording device for which settings for data-capture attributes are indicative of characteristics of said non-textual data;
  - linking meta-data with said block of non-textual data, said meta-data corresponding to at least one said data-capture attribute during said capture by said recording device; [[and]]
  - performing automated processing to assign description to contents of said block, including utilizing said meta-data in determining said description[[.]] by operations within a progression of decisional nodes, said progression of decisional nodes being configured to invoke algorithms for selectively assigning descriptions to said blocks of data; and
- enabling utilization of said descriptions assigned by said

  operations within said progression of decisional nodes to implement searches

  for particular said blocks of data via query matching.
- 1 2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said step of capturing includes
- 2 recording at least one of an image file by an image-capture device and audio
- 3 file by an audio recorder.
- 1 3. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said step of linking includes
- 2 obtaining exposure information that identifies an exposure setting of said
- 3 recording device.

- 4. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said step of capturing further
- 2 includes configuring said block as a file of non-textual data in a digital format
- and wherein said step of linking includes forming a tag to said file, said tag
- 4 being indicative of a plurality of exposure time, automatic gain, film speed,
- 5 shutter speed, white balance, aperture/lens index, focusing index, and
- 6 flash/no flash operation.
- 1 5. (original) The method of claim 1 further including a step of transmitting
- 2 said block of said non-textual data and said meta-data from said recording
- 3 device to a computer for performing said automated processing.
- 1 6. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said automated processing
- 2 includes analyzing said non-textual data and said meta-data to identify
- 3 content-based information and manipulating said content-based information to
- 4 derive said description.
- 1 7. (original) The method of claim 6 wherein said step of analyzing includes
- 2 applying digital signal processing (DSP) to said non-textual data.
- 1 8. (cancelled)
- 1 9. (currently amended) A system for classifying subject data comprising:
- a recording device for capturing non-textual subject data and for
- 3 recording meta-data, said meta-data being specific to an operational mode of
- 4 said recording device during capturing of said non-textual subject data; and
- a processor configured to implement a classification technique,
- 6 said classification technique including a decision tree capable of invoking
- 7 algorithms that utilize utilizing both of said non-textual subject data and
- 8 said meta-data for identifying at least one classifier, said classifier being
- 9 representative of an attribute of said subject data, said processor being further
- 10 configured to implement searches for specific said non-textual subject data
- 11 <u>via query matching to classifiers identified by said classification technique</u>.

- 1 10. (original) The system of claim 9 wherein said recording device is a digital
- 2 camera.
- 1 11. (original) The system of claim 9 wherein said operational mode of said
- 2 recording device is based on a state as determined by at least one of
- 3 exposure time, auto gain setting, film speed, shutter speed, white balance,
- 4 aperture/lens index, focusing distance, and flash/no flash operation.
- 1 12. (original) The system of claim 9 wherein said classification technique is a
- 2 sequential progression of decision making comprising a plurality of
- 3 classification nodes, at least some of said classification nodes including
- 4 algorithms for determining which of a plurality of alternative next classification
- 5 nodes is to be encountered in said sequential progression of decision making.
- 1 13. (original) The system of claim 9 wherein said classification technique is a
- 2 neural network having an input stage, an output stage and at least one
- 3 decision-making stage, said decision-making stage comprising a plurality of
- 4 classification nodes, at least some of said classification nodes configured to
- 5 receive a plurality of weighted inputs from other classification nodes within
- 6 said decision-making stage and from said input stage for generating an output
- 7 as a basis for identifying classifiers.

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14. (currently amended) A method of categorizing files of non-textual data
 comprising the steps of:

establishing an evaluation system for decision making, including using automated processing techniques to define a plurality of algorithms, said algorithms utilizing both of content-based data and meta-data, said content-based data corresponding to content information of a file of said non-textual data and said meta-data corresponding to data-capturing settings of a data-capturing device during capture of said file of non-textual data;

capturing a file of non-textual subject data; [[and]]

processing said file of non-textual subject data through said evaluation system for decision making to selectively identify a plurality of classifiers associated with said file of non-textual subject [[data.]] data, said evaluation system including a progression of decisional nodes configured to invoke said algorithms so as to selectively identify said plurality of classifiers; and

enabling utilization of said plurality of classifiers identified by said evaluation system for decision making to implement searches for said file via query matching.

- 1 15. (original) The method of claim 14 wherein said step of establishing
- 2 includes a learning procedure in which said content-based data is extracted
- 3 from each of a plurality of learning images and said meta-data is identified for
- 4 each said learning image, said meta-data for each said learning image being
- 5 indicative of operational conditions of said data-capturing device during
- 6 capture of said learning image.
- 1 16. (original) The method of claim 15 further comprising a step of generating
- 2 a plurality of learning classifiers that are descriptive of said learning images,
- 3 said step of generating including applying content-based analysis for said
- 4 content-based data and meta-data analysis for said meta-data.